

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

June 2011 Edition

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Welcome!

It's a pleasure to connect with my constituents and highlight informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

For your convenience, I have included at the end of this edition

opportunities on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation on County Boards.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

FY2012 Budget Passes!

On **Wednesday, May 25, 2011** the Howard County Council passed the Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2012. For a complete list of the budget and funding details, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/portaldocs/FY12ApprovedBudgetDETAIL.pdf.

Operation Chill Rewards Our Youth for Performing Good Deeds!

Howard County Police are on the lookout for kids performing good deeds and rewarding youngsters with vouchers for FREE Slurpees made available through a program by 7-Eleven. Through Operation Chill, officers will reward kids with coupons for behaviors including helping others, using a crosswalk, biking with a helmet, picking up trash or participating in a positive activity in the community. Coupons can be redeemed for a small Slurpee at participating 7-Eleven stores.

HCPD has received 2,000 coupons as part of the program. The coupons will be given out by officers in northern and southern district patrol, as well as youth officers who staff the Community Athletic Program travelling recreation center. For more info, call **410-313-2236**.

Community Athletic Program Returns!

This summer, a mobile recreation center is coming to your neighborhood! The Community Athletic Program will operate weekdays beginning July 5 through August 19 except for the week of July 25. Enjoy playing on the Sony PlayStation3, baseball, baggo, basketball, flag football, board games and more. You can find CAP at locations including: Mondays at Talbott Springs Pool, Tuesdays at Ridgely Run Community Center and Fridays at East Columbia Library.

This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Attorney's Office. For more info, call **410-313-2620** or www.hcpd.org.

FREE Home Energy Audit Program!

Howard County's new **FREE** Home Energy Audit Program will provide free comprehensive audits to 1,500 households, an estimated savings of approximately of \$250-\$500 to households. The audit is the first step in identifying how much energy a home consumes and evaluate what measures can make the home more energy efficient while saving money on their energy bills and is funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program.

Applications are available online at <http://livegreenhoward.com/energy-climate/home-energy-audit/> and selections will be made via lottery weekly over the course of the next six months. If selected, you will have 48 hours from notification to participate must agree to provide a 12-month history of their energy usage, be present at the time of the audit and complete a survey six months after the audit to record the efficiency measures implemented.

For questions, email energyaudit@howardcountymd.gov.

Columbia Foundation Community Forum Tonight!

On **Monday, June 20, 2011**, from **6-8:30pm** at **St. John Baptist Church**, the Columbia Foundation will host a community forum to hear the findings of the Foundation's Listening Project. Come out and hear the most pressing issues identified by the Howard County community.

For more details, call **410-730-7840**.

BOE Meeting and Public Hearing on Superintendent Search!

The Howard County Board of Education will hold a regularly scheduled meeting **Thursday, June 21, 2011** at **4pm** in the **Board Room at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108 in Ellicott City, MD**. Both the afternoon and evening session, which convenes at **7:30pm**, will begin with A Public Forum when community members may address the Board on any topic other than those for which a formal public hearing process exists. Advance registration is preferred.

During the evening session, the Board will hold its initial public hearing on the Superintendent search. To sign up to testify at the hearing or speak at the Public Form, call **410-313-7194**.

BGE Hosts Open House on Natural Gas Pipeline Project!

Join BGE as it hosts a community Open House on **Thursday, June 23** from **2-8pm** at **The Meeting House in Oakland Mills, 5885 Robert Oliver Place in Columbia, MD**. During the meeting, BGE will present its project for constructing a natural gas pipeline in Howard County beginning just north of Clarksville continuing southeast to end just north of Laurel.

For questions, call 410-685-0123.

Charter Review Commission Meetings Continue!

On March 7, 2011, the Council approved Resolution 10-2011 appointing the 2011 Charter Review Commission consisting of 15 Howard County residents. The Commissions meetings will all be held at 9am in the Columbia Room of the George Howard Building unless otherwise noted. For more information, email charterreview@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2001. Listed below are the upcoming meeting dates:

- June 23 – C. Vernon Gray Conference Room, George Howard Building
- July 14 – C. Vernon Gray Conference Room, George Howard Building
- July 28
- August 11
- August 25

The official website for the Commission can be accessed at www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_CharterReviewCommiss2011.htm.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop!

Congressman Elijah Cummings will host his 6th Foreclosure Prevention Workshop on **Saturday, June 25, 2011** from **9am-3pm** at **Woodlawn High School, 1801 Woodlawn Drive, Gwynn Oak, MD**. This event assists homeowners delinquent on their mortgages or facing potential foreclosure in getting the information and resources they need to secure their homes. Those attending will receive free loan counseling, learn about refinancing options, and have the opportunity to meet with HUD approved housing counselors, attorneys and their mortgage lenders.

For more details, visit www.mdhope.org or call 410-685-9199.

Support Our Local Farmers Markets!

It's that time of year again when we can count on fresh vegetables and fruits from around Howard County. Help support our local farmers by visiting any one of the local farmers markets: East Columbia Library (Hours: Thursdays 2-6pm), Howard County General Hospital (Hours: Fridays 2-6pm), Glenwood Library (Hours: Saturdays 9am-12:30pm) and the Oakland Mills Village Center (Hours: Sundays 9am-12:30pm).

Jazz in the Mills – Julie Hall and Friends!

Join the Oakland Mills community for an entertaining concert featuring Julie Hall and Friends on **Sunday, June 26, 2011** from **5-7pm**. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For more details, call **410-730-4620**.

Bring a Sack, Get Answers Back!

The Howard County General Hospital will host an opportunity to learn more details on medication you may be taking. On **Monday, June 27, 2011** from **9am-12pm**, visit the HCGH Wellness Center, Medical Pavilion to speak with an expert pharmacist and learn more about the prescription drugs you are taking. This event is offered in partnership with John Hopkins Outpatient Pharmacy.

For more information, call **410-740-7601**.

Going Green: It's a Personal Thing!

Going green is not easier than every! Do you want the newest information about recycling? Learn how to enhance your "green" behaviors and build a healthier community for you, your family and friends. This event is **FREE**, open to the public and will be held on **Monday, June 27, 2011** from **7-8:30pm** at the **HCGH Wellness Center**.

For more information, call **410-740-7601**.

4th of July Festival & Fireworks!

Join all Howard Countians in the celebration of the 4th of July at the annual Festival and Fireworks celebration. The celebration will feature live entertainment on two stages, with the second stage hosting children's entertainment. There will also be carnival games and crafts! Bring a picnic or purchase food from on-site vendors. Parking is free.

For a list of the days events, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/rap/rapdocs/July_4_11.pdf or call 410-313-7275.

SPOTLIGHT ON HOWARD COUNTY!

I'd like to take a brief moment and acknowledge an outstanding individual whom recently I've had the privilege to present with Resolution on behalf of the Howard County Council.

Anne Towne celebrating her retirement from ACS.

Ann De Lacy celebrating her retirement from HCEA.

Betty Nordaas celebrating her retirement from the Howard County Board of Elections.

Long Reach HS AAV Team celebrating their team spirit and accomplishment of placing first in the Project Lead the Way™ challenge.

Black Student Achievement Program honoring students demonstrating academic excellence.

Men's Health Month highlighting the importance of prevention and detection.

Allen Harris celebrating his retirement as founding Pastor at Columbia Presbyterian Church.

Mid-Atlantic Baptist Association initiated the first 5K run to raise awareness for homelessness. All proceeds donated to Rt1 Day Center.

Paint It! Ellicott City!

During the weekend of **July 8-10**, artists will take to the streets of Historic Ellicott City to participate in the plein air event, *Paint It! Ellicott City*. *En plein air*, a technique of painting outdoors directly from life without the aid of photography. The Howard County Arts Council (HCAC), Howard County Tourism, and the Howard County Public School System are presenting a paint-out weekend culminating in an exhibit of 27 juried artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts.

Registration is required to be a part of the one-day exhibit at the Howard County Arts Council and is available at the Howard County Tourism Welcome Center and online at www.hocoarts.org.

Smoke Free Lungs!

Learn tips for quitting your tobacco habit and mastering long-term success. This program provides support and education for those wanting to quit as well as those who have quit. Sessions are held monthly... come to one or come to them all! This event will be held on **Tuesday, July 28, 2011** from **7-9pm** at the **Howard County General Hospital Wellness Center, 10710 Charter Drive, Suite 100 in Columbia, MD**. For more details, call **410-740-7601**.

Collision Avoidance Training!

Learn how to handle your car in any situation. Designed especially for new drivers who want more specialized experience on the road, Collision Avoidance Training teaches hands-on techniques for evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and more.

The cost of the course is \$95 and is open to licensed teens ages 16-19. Classes for 2011 will be held on the following dates: **6/24 & 6/25**. For more information, visit www.hcpd.org or call **410-313-3758**.

Morgan State University Hosts Free Summer Science Camp!

Summer Science Camp 2011 is almost upon us! Morgan State University will be hosting a **FREE** Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy for students K-12. **Session 1: June 27-July 1; Session 2: July 5-8; Session 3: July 11-15; and Session 4 July 18-22.**

Classes are from **10am-1pm Monday through Friday**. Lunch is provided. To register, please call the SEMAA Office 10am-6pm Monday-Friday or come to Morgan State University Montebellow Complex Room C-108, 2201 Argonne Drive in Baltimore, MD. For more details, call **443-885-3304/3307**.

Domestic Violence Center to Expand its Sexual Assault Services

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the Howard County Police Department and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand DVS's sexual assault services with the hire of a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Clinician who will be based at the CAC. For more details, call **410-997-0304** or visit www.dvcenter.org.

Commissioners Wanted for HC Commission on Disability Issues!

The Howard County Commission on Disability Issues is currently accepting applications for individuals interested in serving a five-year term as a Commissioner. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be a Howard County resident, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in disability issues and be able to attend the Commission's meetings on the third Monday of each month from 6-8:30pm.

Applicants must submit a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: **Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**. The names of approved candidates will be sent to the County Executive, who will then submit his recommendations to the County Council for confirmation.

For more information, call **Joyce Lehrer** at **410-313-6431** or email jlehrer@howardcountymd.gov.

“Guaranteed Ride Home” Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. “Guaranteed Ride Home” offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Alzheimer’s Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer’s Early-Stage Social Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at 410-313-5441. For more information on the Alzheimer’s association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI’s new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

The database is **FREE** of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at www.bbimatchup.com and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

The next BBI will be held on **Wednesday, June 29 2011 from 7:30am-11am at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, #2 in Columbia, MD**. Two Defense Contractors will be on hand to make a presentation on how to do business with them. All Test Companies should attend. Partner companies are asked to attend and the public is invited. This event is **FREE**.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call 410-730-2273 or email chayakaplan@verizon.net

Newest Feature for Maryland’s Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland’s Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web “spidering technology” which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State’s employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>

View the Council’s Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Environmental_Homepage.htm.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term to begin in August 2011. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm or call 410-313-6300.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Howard County Boards and Commissions bring meaning to "government of the people, by the people and for the people." They provide a vital link between our citizens and the officials who serve them.

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to submit a current resume along with a cover letter highlighting interests or experience which would be beneficial to the Board or Commission to which application is being made. Letters should be addressed to: **County Executive, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**.

As vacancies occur on the various boards or commissions, interviews are scheduled with interested parties. For current vacancies and special requirements, please call **Eileen Weber**, County Executive Office at **410-313-2013**.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government's website at www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm. On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm or by calling **410-313-4076**. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf

Homeowners Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf

Homestead Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf

Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf

Community Associations Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/CommAssoc.pdf

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

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http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

I Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Mother Teresa